

NISTIR 6774

Workshop On Fire Testing Measurement Needs: Proceedings

William Grosshandler
(Editor)



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National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

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Building and Fire Research Laboratory

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U.S. Department of Commerce
Donald Evans, Secretary

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Dr. Karen H. Brown, Acting Director

IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBALIZATION ON U.S. FIRE TESTING



Richard G. Gann, Ph.D.
Fire Research Division
Building and Fire Research
Laboratory

Workshop on Fire Testing
Measurement Needs

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The Change Has Begun

- U.S. imports plus exports > sales of domestic products
- Many products =  (work in multiple countries)
- Products must meet local market standards
- Selling into multiple markets is difficult if market has different product descriptors and/or standards
- Many countries subscribe to international standards
- The U.S. does not, but products must still accede

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
ISO (& IEC)

- A separate standards development body that does not necessarily follow the U.S.
- Many ISO committees, including TC92 on Fire Safety, are dominated by European countries
- U.S. participation in ISO committees is not government-sponsored
 - led by representatives who choose to and can afford to attend
 - supported by those who respond to ballots, contribute at TAG meetings, etc.

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Difference in Standards

- ASTM E-119  ISO 834 (fire resistance)
 - test conditions
 - measurement devices
 - metrics
- ISO will follow a different approach for smoke toxic potency measurement than NFPA 269/ASTM E1678
 - tube furnace vs. radiant furnace

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Implications for Manufacturers

- Need for understanding of standards and testing = a problem for smaller companies
- May make different products for export
- May make single product that passes multiple tests
 - potential cost disadvantage
- Some won't "play"

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Issues for Fire Testing

- More tests → more business
- Larger investment in capital equipment
- Understanding of similarities and differences among related tests
- Cross-border acceptance of results

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